

## Congresswoman Kosmas Meets with School Officials to Address Concerns, Discuss Benefits of Economic Recovery Package

(Washington, DC) - Congresswoman

Suzanne Kosmas (FL-24) met today with superintendents and other school officials from her congressional district to discuss the benefits of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and address any concerns and questions about how funding will reach Central Florida schools.

Kosmas Confident

that Florida will Get Its Fair Share of Education Funding

(Washington, DC) - Congresswoman

Suzanne Kosmas (FL-24) met today with superintendents and other school officials from her congressional district to discuss the benefits of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and address any concerns and questions about how funding will reach Central Florida schools.

"Today's meeting was extremely productive," said Congresswoman Kosmas. "I am encouraged to hear how much we will be able to accomplish with the education funding in this historic recovery package. This money will allow our schools to provide a 21st Century education that will help us become stronger, more productive and more competitive."

The recovery package includes nearly \$6 billion in estimated total funding for Florida education.

More than \$2 billion will go to school districts to fund important areas such as Title I for disadvantaged students, special education programs, and school construction and modernization, which will create thousands of jobs. Investment in these programs includes \$44 million for Brevard County, \$126 million for Orange County, \$31 million for Seminole County, and \$41 million for Volusia County. An additional \$3.5 billion would go to the state's education budget in the form of a stabilization fund to help prevent teacher layoffs and education cuts.

"There is some concern about Florida meeting the education spending levels required to receive stabilization fund money," said Kosmas. "This money is vital for protecting our schools from budget cuts and teacher layoffs. I will continue to work with Senators Nelson and Martinez, as well as my House colleagues, to ensure that Florida gets its fair share of this critical education funding. I am confident that this problem will be rectified."

The Senate version of the recovery package includes a waiver that will allow Florida to receive stabilization funding. Yesterday, Congresswoman Kosmas sent a letter to Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Senator Mel Martinez (R-FL) voicing her support for efforts to protect Florida's share of stabilization fund

money.

The full text of  
the letter can be found below:

January 29, 2009

The Honorable Senator Bill Nelson

United States Senate

716 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Mel Martinez

United States Senate

356 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson and Senator  
Martinez:

I write to voice my support for your efforts in the Senate to address our concerns that the State of Florida does not meet the required education spending levels necessary to receive an estimated \$3.58 billion through the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund authorized in H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Our state has been hit hard by a rise in foreclosures, unemployment, and recent natural disasters, resulting in a crippling budget crisis. During these tough times, Floridians need their fair share of this critical funding.

I am encouraged by the proposed Senate bill, which already includes a waiver that would allow Florida to receive these funds despite its shortfalls in education funding. Alternatively, the adoption of a Senate amendment allowing states to use the stabilization funds to reach required education spending thresholds would also be an acceptable solution.

I am committed to continue working with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to ensure that this problem is rectified before the recovery package is signed into law by President Obama. I appreciate your attention to this matter in the Senate and offer any assistance you may need.

Sincerely,

SUZANNE M. KOSMAS

Member of Congress

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